Mr. P. Neelakanta Menon:— The enquiry was conducted here by the Commandant, Nair Brigade. A copy of his report C. No. 4 of 1108, dated 12th January 1934 is appended *(Appendix V.)* It was proved that the Veterinary Inspector left Bombay with the animals without detecting the discrepancies between the details noted in the certificates and the marks on the horses. For this he was suspended from duty for one month.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon:—What was the loss sustained by the Government by the negligence of the Inspector?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon:—No loss was sustained.

Article in Mahathi—Allegations—staff—Vadakkancheri Munsiff's Court.

207. A. Eachan Menon:—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) whether their attention has been drawn to the article in the Mahathi newspaper under the caption "കാടാമ്പുഴയിൽ നിന്നും കാള" by Powran (page 7 of the issue dated 30th December 1934).

(2) whether there is any truth in the grave allegations made in it;

(3) if so, what action have they taken?

Rama Varmha Tampuran:— (1) Yes.

(2) and 3) The matter is under enquiry

Mr P. S. Kesavan Nambudiri:—By whom is the enquiry conducted?

Rama Varmha Tampuran:—The enquiry is being conducted by the Judicial Department.

Agricultural indebtedness in the State.

208. Mr. A. Sivarama Menon:—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) the total amount of agricultural indebtedness in the State;

(b) the measures they have taken or proposed to take to save the agriculturists from the effects of their heavy debt?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon:— (a) Government have not collected complete statistics.

(b) Steps are being taken to disburse Rs. 20 lakhs in loans to deserving agriculturists.

Mr. A Sivarama Menon:—May I know the progress made in the collection of statistics?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon:—I do not think Government have embarked upon collecting any statistics yet, except perhaps what is being collected by the officer who is conducting the Economic Survey.

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Mr. A. Sivarama Menon:—I put the question because of this answer given here i. e., Government have not collected complete statistics. That suggests some partial collection.

Mr. K Achyuta Menon:—Some partial collection has been made in the shape of applications received for loans by the Government from the agriculturists in respect of the grant of 5 lakhs. That comes to about 49 lakhs. To that extent Government have collected statistics.

Mr. A. Sivarama Menon:—That I suppose was volunteered by the would-be borrowers. Therefore no specific work has been done in this direction.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon:—Apart from what is being collected by the Ecnomic Survey Officer Government have not embarked upon any specific collection of agricultural indebtedness in the State.

Mr. A. Sivarama Menon:—Has any special reference been made on this point to the officer who is conducting the Economic Survey?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon:—Yes.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph:—May I know whether they are in possession of any statistics in regard to villages where the Survey is being conducted?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon:—They are in possession of statistics so far as those villages in which the survey is over.

Mr. C A. Ouseph:—Will the Government be in a position to give information regarding those that are over.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon:—As regards Narakkal he has got the figures with him. For Anthikkad also there are figures available.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph:—May I know in how many villages the survey is over now?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon:—Four villages I think.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:—Can you give us an approximate extent of the agricultural indebtedness in the State?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon:—I am sorry I am not in a position to give even approximately accurate figures with regard to the total amount of agricultural indebtedness. The point was considered with respect to the applications for loans so far received and the amount was fixed after considering what exactly Government would require to lend to the agriculturists.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:—Am I to understand that the applications were the only criterion at the disposal of the Government in fixing the amount of the loan?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon:—There was no necessity for another enquiry into the matter.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan:—May I know whether the time for applying for loans has been extended?

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Mr. K. Achyuta Menon:—It has been extended till the end of this month.

Imprisonment of Mr. Mathai Manjuran.

209. Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:—Will the Government kindly state the class in which the political prisoner Mr. Mathai Manjuran, B. A., has been placed and the arrangements made for his prison life?

Rama Varmha Tampuran:—Mr. Mathai Manjuran B. A., is in the ordinary class of under-trial prisoners. He is allowed to wear a shirt at his cost. It has not been found necessary to classify him in any special class.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:—Was your attitude towards him of a vindictive kind?

Rama Varmha Tampuran:—No.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:—What are the rules relating to the qualifications of prisoners in the higher class?

Rama Varmha Tampuran:—Rules 702 to 708 of the Jail Rules. These are a long set of rules.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:—Will you please give an idea of it?

Rama Varmha Tampuran:— There are three classes of prisoners. "Under Sec. 27 of the Prisons Regulation unconvicted Criminal prisoners shall be kept apart from convicted criminal prisoners as well as from Civil prisoners."

"Under-trial prisoners shall not be allowed to crop their hair or in any way alter their personal appearance so as to make it difficult to recognise them. But when the Medical Officer deems it necessary on the ground of dirt or vermin the hair of such prisoners may be cut" etc. etc.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:—Is not this gentleman a graduate?

Rama Varmha Tampuran:—Yes, he is a graduate.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:—Does he not come from a very respectable family?

Rama Varmha Tampuran:—There is a classifying authority whose duty it is to classify the prioners and the classification is made after they are convicted. I don't know whether he has been convicted and at what stage the proceedings now stand. Unless that is known, there will be no use of going into details.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:—May I know who is the classifying officer?

Rama Varmha Tampuran:— The Sessions Judge, the Magistrate of the first class etc.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan:—Does it apply to under-trial prisoners.

Rama Varmha Tampuran:—It applies to convicted prisoners. Classification is not made when they are under-trial prisoners.

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